

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

**NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL  
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

(PCT Rule 72.2)

**Date of mailing (day/month/year)**  
03 October 2001 (03.10.01)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU		
P.O. Box 45, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland		
Vorg.		
Eing.: 11. OKT. 2001		
O ablegen		
O Vert. wie Vorg./ansteigen		
AU	CL	HU

**Applicant's or agent's file reference**  
1999/G003 PCT

**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION**

**International application No.**  
PCT/EP00/02366

**International filing date (day/month/year)**  
17 March 2000 (17.03.00)

**Applicant**  
TICONA GMBH et al

**1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.**

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation made by the International Bureau of the international preliminary examination report established by the International Preliminary Examining Authority.

**2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the elected Offices.**

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following elected Offices requiring such translation:

AU,CA,CN,JP,KP,KR,NZ,PL,US

The following elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

AP,EA,EP,AE,AL,AM,AZ,BA,BB,BG,BR,BY,CU,CZ,EE,GD,GE,HR,HU,ID,IL,IN,IS,KG,KZ,LC,LK,LR,LT,LV,MD,MG,MK,MN,MX,NO,RO,RU,SG,SI,SK,SL,TJ,TM,TR,TT,UA,UZ,VN,YU,ZA,OA

**3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).**

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report.

**It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.**

The International Bureau of WIPO  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

Zakaria EL KHODARY

Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1999/G003 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP00/02366	International filing date (day/month/year) 17 March 2000 (17.03.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 19 March 1999 (19.03.99)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B01D 11/02,		
Applicant	TICONA GMBH	

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
These annexes consist of a total of <u>2</u> sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report
II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority
III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention
V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited
VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application
VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18 September 2000 (18.09.00)	Date of completion of this report 26 March 2001 (26.03.2001)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP00/02366

## I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.):

the international application as originally filed.

the description, pages 1-16, as originally filed,  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand,  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_,  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

the claims, Nos. 2(part),3-9,10(part),  
15(part), 16-27, as originally filed,  
Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, as amended under Article 19,  
Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand,  
Nos. 1,2(part),10(part),  
11-14,15(part), filed with the letter of 02 March 2001 (02.03.2001),  
Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

the drawings, sheets/fig 1/4 - 4/4, as originally filed,  
sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand,  
sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_,  
sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_

the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

the drawings, sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_

3.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 00/02366

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 27	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 27	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 27	YES
	Claims		NO

## 2. Citations and explanations

This report makes reference to the following document:

D1: US-A-4 590 038 (G. SCHREIBER ET AL) 20 May 1986  
(1986-05-20)

## 1. Novelty

Document D1 discloses a method and device for separating substances, wherein a suspension, that is, a mixture of at least two substances, is brought into contact with a wash fluid in counterflow (see D1, Claim 1). The suspension is introduced into a chamber from above. The base of the chamber has an annular gap (see D1, Figure 3) through which the sediment leaves the chamber in the form of a sediment film. Beneath the chamber, the rising wash fluid in the form of a turbulent flow is brought into contact with the sediment film and flows through the latter. The subject matter of the present application differs from D1 in that the wash fluid flows from the side against the sediment film leaving the sedimentation chamber and then flows through said sediment film.

..../....

(Continuation of V.2)

The subject matter of Claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)). The same applies to the subject matter of independent device Claim 10.

**2. Inventive step**

2.1 Mixing of the sediment and wash fluid occurs as a result of the turbulent flow described in D1. The concept on which the present application is based is that the at least two components are separated predominantly by the utilization of a displacement effect which produces little or no intensive mixing (see page 4, lines 1 - 4). This is achieved in that a wash fluid flows transversely through a relatively thin sediment film, without mixing therewith. A method of this kind (Claim 1) and a device of this kind (Claim 10) are neither known from, nor suggested by, the available prior art. The solutions proposed in Claims 1 and 10 of the present application therefore involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

2.2 Claims 2 - 9 and 11 - 27 are dependent on Claims 1 and 10, respectively, and therefore they, too, meet the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step.

**3. Inventive step**

The industrial applicability is obvious.